

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCA-01 /072 W

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O R 011740Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6990

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR EC

SUBJECT: COUP ATTEMPT IN ECUADOR: SITREP #9

REF: QUITO 6431

1. GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE ASANZA, SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION (AND PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' SPOKESMAN), WAS INTERVIEWED ON CHANNEL 4 TELEVISION AT THE HQ OF THE "VENCEDORES" GARRISON OPPOSIT QUITO AIRPORT. AGUIRRE SAID VIRTUALLY EVERY MILITARY ELEMENT IN THE COUNTRY HAD PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RODRIGUEZ LARA GOVERNMENT (AND NAMED THEM ONE BY ONE); HE AGAIN DESCRIBED THE REBELS AS "A SMALL GROUP OF TRAITORS", AND CALLED UPON THE NATION TO REMAIN CALM AND GIVE ITS SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA. HE SAID THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF RADIO STATIONS HAD BEEN BROADCASTING "ERRONEOUS" INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT MISLEAD THE COUNTRY ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF THE REBELLION; AGUIRRE THREATENED IMMEDIATE SEIZURE OF SUCH STATIONS.

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2.AGUIRRE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT COMMANDER OF THE JOINT

GENERAL STAFF ADM. SERGIO VASQUEZ PACHECO AND AIR FORCE COMMANDER LUIS LEORO WERE AT THAT MOMENT AT QUITO'S ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE HQ DIRECTING THE MILITARY MOVES WHICH WOULD ENABLE RESTORATION OF THE RODRIGUEZ GOVERNMENT.

3. AGUIRRE SAID RODRIGUEZ LARA HIMSELF IS LEADING AN ARMORED/MECHANIZED BRIGADE NORTH TOWARDS QUITO FROM RIOBAMBA; AT 11:45, THIS COLUMN WAS REPORTED TO BE PASSING THROUGH AMBATO, APPROXIMATELY 75 MILES SOUTH OF QUITO. AT 10:30 A.M., A COMMUNIQUE WAS BORADCAST OVER RODRIGUEZ LARA'S NAME GIVING THE REBELS ONE HOUR TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND CALLING ON ALL ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO SUPPORT HIS REGIME.

4. COMMENT: THE SITUATION IN QUITO REMAINS CONFUSED AT 12 NOON. REBEL FORCES UNDER GEN. GONZALEZ ARE APPARENTLY IN CONTROL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE; PRO-RODRIGUEZ LARA FORCES IN CONTROL OF QUITO'S AIRPORT AND APPARENTLY COMMAND AT LEAST THE PASSIVE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY. IT APPEARS AT THIS POINT THAT A CONCLUSION IS SOME TIME AWAY.
BREWSTER

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